

1 Situational Awareness

2 Introduction

- What do the following people have in common?
 - the world's winningest athletes
 - fighter pilots
 - CIA agents
 - “street smart” teenagers
 - and mothers, (with eyes in the back of their heads)
- It is situational awareness – the ability to scan our surroundings, comprehend their meaning and make quick judgments about what will likely happen next and what decisions we will need to make as a result.

3 Miracle on the Hudson

- On January 15, 2009, Captain “Sully” Sullenberger successfully landed his Airbus A320 on the Hudson River.
- Because of his situational awareness and ability to keep his head and rely on his training, he was labeled a hero and his accomplishment called a miracle.

4 Google Maps

- Early this year, Lauren Rosenberg from California was struck by a car walking down a busy Utah highway.
- She blamed the accident on Google Maps, which she says instructed her to walk down the middle of a highway that had no sidewalks.
- Apparently Ms. Rosenberg didn't understand that Google Maps aren't for pedestrians.

5 Lacking Awareness

- While investigating a purse-snatching, Brunswick, Georgia, detectives picked up a man who fit the thief's description and drove him back to the scene. He was told to exit the car and face the victim for an I.D.
 - The suspect dutifully eyed the victim and blurted, “Yeah, that's the woman I robbed.”
- In Nashville, they tell of Fred “Junior” Williams, the burglar who fell asleep on the sofa of the home he was robbing, . . .
 - Only to be awakened by police
- In Thibodaux, Louisiana, a robber with a thick Cajun accent couldn't get restaurant patrons to understand his demand for money. Frustrated, he whipped out his gun, but it wouldn't fire. Grabbing the cash register, he ran — but got only 3 feet before falling down. The register was still plugged into the wall
 - Unplugging it, he tried again, but a diner decked him and called police.

6 Lacking Awareness

- Texas authorities, responding to a store robbery, seized a man who was fleeing naked.

- He said he'd stripped after the job because he figured his clothes would make him identifiable.
- In Lawrence, Kansas, officers tracked a midnight thief, who prided himself on his running speed.
 - Police followed the red lights on his high-tech tennis shoes.
- In Virginia, a janitor went to great lengths to avoid being identified in a 7-Eleven robbery, using a ski mask and a rental car for the occasion.
 - But he also wore his work uniform, which said "Cedar Woods Apartments" and his name, Dwayne, stitched across the front.

7 Famous Quote

- Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former.

—Albert Einstein.

8 What is Situational Awareness?

- It is the ability to scan our surroundings, comprehend their meaning and make quick judgments about what will likely happen next and what decisions we will need to make as a result.

9 What is Situational Awareness?

- Many aircraft accidents are caused by the lack of "situational awareness." Why?
- When situational awareness is high, we can succeed despite extremely difficult circumstances.
- However, when situational awareness is low, we can fail despite extremely simple circumstances.

10 Signs of Lost Awareness

- Ambiguity
- Distraction
- Fatigue
- Feeling of inadequacy or confusion.
- Breakdown in communication.
- Not expecting the unexpected.
- Failure to comply with the plan.
- Violating established rules or procedures.

11 Deadly Example

- On the night of December 29, 1972, Eastern Air Lines Flight 401, crashed into the Florida Everglades, causing 101 fatalities (77 initial crash survivors, two died shortly afterward).

- The crash was a result of the flight crew's failure to recognize a deactivation of the autopilot during their attempt to troubleshoot a malfunction of the landing gear position indicator system.
- As a result, the flight gradually lost altitude while the flight crew was preoccupied and eventually crashed.

12 SA – Model

13 Jesus Briefs His Disciples

- In Luke 21, Jesus seeks to brief his disciples on what is to come so that they will have situational awareness on what to do when future events happen.
- He tells them . . .
 - It will be a time when the earth itself starts freaking out with earthquakes and famines.
 - There will be struggles between nations, the fall of great powers and even persecution for those following him.
 - It's coming. And you have to be ready. If you're my disciple, you need to survey the situation. You need to assess what's happening and stay aware.

14 Being Alert

- Just what does it look like to live with the spiritual, situational awareness Jesus encourages?
- Specifically, knowing that we live in increasingly difficult times, how do we keep our guard up, our eyes open and do things “right,” such as, say, Captain Sully?
- Likewise, what's at stake if we insist on keeping our eyes glued to other things while the road around us becomes more dangerous?

15 Situational Apathy

- Rather than having any situational awareness, many people have situational apathy.
- They've become completely uncaring about the world around them, which Jesus says demands our attention.
- Instead of putting God's word into action, they have become self-centered, self-absorbed, and preoccupied with their own self-interest and wants.

16 Situational Apathy

- The end result of such situational apathy is missed opportunities.
- When the world is raging around us, it is an excellent opportunity to witness to the hope that is in us.

- When this broken world increasingly shows itself for what it is, in the form of all kinds of strife, struggle and persecution, those disciples standing in the midst of it will be afforded the chance to share with their friends, their families and even their enemies just why this world is so broken (sin) and just who (Jesus) has made and will make it all better.

17 Situational Obsession

- There is also something to say about being too focused where we are promoting fear and doom, instead of hope and opportunity.
- “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33 NIV)
- Jesus told us the truth of what was coming, so we could have peace.
- It’s the kind of peace that says to your soul, “Even though you have to endure, you’re going to get through it.”
- It’s the kind of peace produced by the fact that when trouble does arrive, it proves only that . . . Jesus is surprised by nothing and therefore capable of everything.

18 Jesus’ Purpose

- Jesus’ goal in getting his disciples, in getting us, ready for the end is to produce a peace in us that understands that despite chaos, God’s plan is moving on.
- Worldwide struggle doesn’t mean the world is outside of his divine control.
- In fact, Jesus wants us to see such “fearful” events as signs of God’s activity in bringing things to a joyful conclusion.
- When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” (Luke 21:28 NIV)

19 Jesus’ Purpose

- Situational obsession is driven by fear to store up canned goods and invest in gold.
- Situational awareness, however, is looking around — seeing all that our Savior said was coming to pass — and being motivated by our peace to share the good news that God’s plan is taking place.

20 The New iPhone

- In June, Steve Jobs introduced the iPhone 4 to much fanfare.
- It included a gyroscope, updated accelerometer, compass, proximity sensor and an ambient light meter. These were all built into the new smart phone.
- Why?
- Jobs wanted the iPhone to be “intelligent about the world around it.”

21 The New iPhone

- Sounds like the iPhone has a lot of situational awareness.

- So not only do fighter pilots, athletes and CIA agents have it, but now even cell phones have it.
- As the world around us tumbles and toils, crumbles and falls, may we have situational awareness, too.

22 Conclusion

- All men will hate you because of me. But not a hair of your head will perish. By standing firm you will gain life. (Luke 21:17-19 NIV)
- You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. (James 5:8 NIV)

23 End